

JENNA PIRELLO

HONEY, HONEY HI

June 15th–July 21st, 2019

*"Honey, honey, honey hi
Honey, honey, honey hi
Honey, honey, honey hi
Honey, honey, honey... "*
-Fleetwood Mac

Jim Kempner Fine Art is pleased to announce *Honey, Honey Hi*, the first solo exhibition of paintings by contemporary American painter, Jenna Pirello. The exhibition will feature a series of new process-based paintings from 2018-19 that explore abstraction, surface texture, and color. The exhibition will be on view from June 15th through July 21st, 2019. An opening reception will be held Saturday, June 15th, from 5-7pm.

Created over the last year, Pirello's newest body of work explores her crucial relationship to the world around her. As the artist describes, we are bombarded with new and old technology, visual imagery within everyday life, and the constant aftermath of a highly mediated social and political context. These paintings act as visual escapes from these external forces and pressures, creating exciting and positive portals into worlds outside of our own. Starting with black grounds, each layer of vivacious color is then built up and scraped away to create a highly complex and tactile surface. Through this additive and subtractive process, Pirello's serial method of mark making is highlighted and allows the viewer to get lost in her abstract language. Pirello's practice, thus, explores this interaction between the external and the internal, further investigating how her process allows for a meditative practice in a contrarily bustling environment.



Ice Cold, 2019. Acrylic on wood panel.
44 x 36 x 1".

Pirello's paintings reflect an honest study and conceptualization of what the "mark" means in the creative process and practice of painting. *Ice Cold's* (2019) monochromatic palette presents the viewer with a tranquil visual field, allowing them to focus on the layered and intricate marks displayed. Pirello's marks range from large to small, fast and frantic to slow and methodical, even deep and dark to light and airy. In this painting, the mark and color work together to invite the viewer to enter into a deeper reflection on both the surface quality and Pirello's meditative state.

The process of making and viewing are intimate practices for Pirello, and each painting asks that we recall how various creative genres-- music, media, poetry, and literature-- interdependently coexist and inform one another. As the artists says, "I am absorbing internally and mentally while I'm producing with my hands. I'm a sponge for information while I'm making, and listen to a range of things: news, riot music, and other streams of information." The show, titled after a Fleetwood Mac song, *Honey, Hi*, demonstrates how music and lyrics are integral to Pirello's prac-

tice and exploration for her own visual languages.

Her paintings are titularly named after songs written by female artists that Pirello listens to while painting, which sets both the mood of the work and the intention. *Slow Disco II* (2019), titled after St. Vincent's *Slow Disco*, visually takes on a similar sense of lyricism as the vivid chromatic shapes pop on the black background and ebb and flow around the perimeter of the painting. *Heads Down, Chin Up* (2019), *Gold Dust Woman* (2019), and *Dig Me In - Dig Me Out* (2018) reflect a similar exploration of color and also present a subliminal, stripped-down landscape composition. These "mental landscapes," as Pirello terms them, demonstrate depth both physically and metaphysically. Living in a time when external factors such as the news and mediated information are inescapable, Pirello's paintings are exciting moments of reprieve and mitigation.



Slow Disco II, 2019. Acrylic on wood panel. 44 x 60 x 1".

Jenna Pirello currently lives and works in Portland, ME. She received her MFA in Painting from Yale University in 2014 and her BFA from Boston University in 2011. She was recently awarded a Fellowship at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA in 2018. Her work has been featured in multiple exhibitions throughout Boston, MA and Portland, ME. In addition to a feature in *ArtMaze Magazine* in 2018, Pirello will be highlighted in the 2019 Northeast Edition of *New American Paintings*, a critically acclaimed juried exhibition and periodical dedicated to presenting work by new artistic talent.